

UVA ECONETWORK



Waste

Waste at UVA is primarily handled by Facilities Management, this [graphic](#) shows more of where the waste at UVA is brought depending on type. [Here](#) you can find updated numbers as to the amount of waste that UVA produces.

2020 - 2030 Sustainability Goals

- It is outlined in the new goals that UVA will reduce its waste by 70% relative to 2010 levels by 2030.
- UVA hopes to accomplish this by optimizing purchasing, encouraging reuse, and increasing recycling and composting.

Major Obstacles to Lowering Waste

- Waste is a product of a community's behavior, and behavior change can be the hardest to achieve in the sustainability realm. For this reason, a leader in accomplishing the 2020-2030 goals expressed that this part is what most worries them, especially as UVA grows.
- Off-Grounds waste is controlled by the City of Charlottesville, so UVA does not have as much influence over how it is processed.
- Waste is also a product of the outside vendors that operate in UVA spaces (Ex: the Pav), and it can be hard to require that they use different packaging. It has also been difficult and slow-going to see

systemic change in these corporate bodies. Many of the people working for these companies also do not have a say over the waste that they generate, and it can be hard to see change if no in-person contact is made between the people with power and the groups on Grounds trying to get them to produce less waste.

Refuse

One of the best ways to prevent waste is by refusing wasteful products in the first place. This means carrying around your own water bottle, as well as using a reusable mug at places around Grounds.

- [Cupanion](#): program through UVA dining that awards you for using reusable drink containers. You put a sticker on your cup or bottle and scan the barcode every time you use it to accumulate points that you can later cash in for prizes.
- Pro tip: you can get free hot water and cheaper prices on drinks if you use your own reusable mug at some stores around Grounds.
- Pro tip: Only take a to-go lid at Roots if you really need it, or clean the last one you had and stick it in your backpack for next time. With how light and low-profile they are, you will barely notice it.

Reduce

- [Releaf program](#): printing at UVA is “paper neutral” because each month the number of pages printed is reported to PrintReLeaf, and for a fee PrintReLeaf will plant trees in a chosen location.
- Try reducing the number of to-go containers you get from dining halls by signing up for reusable boxes. Ask the person that swipes your card how to sign up. Note: this program changes every year and sometimes is not offered. One of the primary challenges is that people will not return the reusable containers, and this leads to a large cost on the side of UVA dining.
- Try asking for glass cups rather than plastic at restaurants such as Trinity Irish Pub
- Ask for no bag at stores around Grounds, including at the PAV and at Crossroads

Reuse

- The [ReUse store](#) opened in 2018 and is a place where you can get free things of all different kinds! It helps to reduce UVA's waste by diverting this "surplus property" from the landfill.
- The [ROSE program](#) housed in the Department of Recycling's building (close to O-hill) offers a way to recycle unused office supplies. Swing by for free school supplies anytime during your semester!
- The [Hoos ReUse](#) program offers a place for students to donate unwanted items (even furniture!) at the end of the year. There are normally Off-grounds locations as well

Recycling

- UVA has a special contract that makes it such that UVA's recycling system "works", unlike many of those in the U.S. due to restrictions from China as to what waste they will import.
- You can find more information about recycling services that the University offers at the following link:
<https://www.fm.virginia.edu/services/recycling.html>
- UVA Department of Recycling
 - Paper Towel Composting on Grounds - sl2ae@virginia.edu
 - Recycling and Sustainability Outreach Presentations - clf6db@virginia.edu

Zero Waste Events

- [Comprehensive guide from the OFS](#)
- You can get certified to host zero waste events through the Student Council Sustainability Committee, and be able to get free materials for your events!

Student Involvement

You can read more about the work that these groups do on the Student Organizations page.

- Materials Working Group
- Nitrogen Working Group
- Green Grounds
- Sustainability Advocates
- StudCo Sustainability (can apply for help with zero-wasting events)

- Campus Kitchen
- Green Greeks

Other Initiatives

- The Law School is trying to reduce the use of plastic cups by encouraging people to bring their own mug to school

Updated as of: 04/05/2020